

Suggestions for the White Paper on a Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response - [Action for Animal Health coalition](#)

Background

It is a welcome development to see prevention addressed in this [white paper](#). Actions to reduce the risk of zoonotic spill-over in the first place have largely been ignored in conversations around pandemic prevention. Most animal-origin infections affecting humans come from interactions with domestic animals and species that thrive in human-dominated environments ([IUCN, 2022](#)), meaning this fund must support actions to protect animal health and sustainable farming systems. Outbreaks of many infectious diseases, including those that are shared between humans and animals, have been associated with food systems transformation, including intensification of livestock farming and deforestation to gain land for farming ([Bett, 2022](#)).

We are pleased the white paper proposes the fund will strengthen prevention, preparedness and response capacity by plugging capacity gaps outlined in the OIE international standards. However, we wish to see the fund cover specific actions related to protecting animal health, and that the governing body gives adequate representation to the three pillars of One Health (humans, animals, environment).

Composition and decision-making of governing board

We wish for the governing board to ensure equitable resource sharing between human, animal and environmental health services, and equal decision making powers across sectors in resource planning and distribution, including animal and environmental health actors.

Country-driven assessments, and applications to the fund, must be done in a truly cross-sectoral way. Assessments must be made by cross-sectoral teams that take into account perspectives from animal health, environmental protection and human health - subsequent applications to the fund must show collaboration between these actors. In an unpublished Action for Animal Health study, commissioned by Brooke, key informants confirmed that animal health tends to receive a minority share of One Health funding. Human health remains the primary paradigm across projects which largely focus on global health security and pandemic prevention (Braam et al. 2022).

The quadripartite (OIE, WHO, UNEP, FAO) should have a permanent seat on the governing board. The governing board must acknowledge community and indigenous knowledge, skills and experience, while supporting their agency in developing effective, practical solutions to enhance animal, human and environmental health.

Any technical advisory group and civil society representation should be representative of all three pillars of One Health, and include representation from those who play a key role in preventing spillover at the human-animal-environment interface, such as farmers, pastoralists and animal health workers.

Civil society participation should be meaningful and not tokenistic. CSOs should be representative of high income, middle income and lower income countries. They must represent the full One Health spectrum, including animal health and welfare, environmental and climate protection CSOs. If a constituency-based approach is adopted – where a space

is provided to CSOs with similar missions to work together as a unique entity and have a stronger influence and impact - efforts must be made to ensure constituencies do not work in silos and regularly communicate with one another, to ensure the governing board itself takes a One Health approach. We recommend constituencies have a working group that crosscuts among all constituencies, to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure effective monitoring and advocacy.

Preventative measures the fund should cover:

The fund needs to support actions to prevent spillover beyond strengthening surveillance systems. Surveillance is only as strong as the data and information monitored. Capacity gaps in the veterinary workforce need to be addressed, and communities who regularly interact with animals must be included, for truly effective surveillance systems.

As well filling capacity gaps to meet OIE standards, actions to prevent zoonotic disease spillover should include:

- Enhancing and supporting access to reliable and effective veterinary services in urban and rural areas. This includes ensuring access to good quality veterinary medicines and vaccines, and that animal health professionals have the skills to use them properly, to prevent zoonotic diseases and to reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AMR can increase the risk of disease emergence.
- Community-led initiatives to support better animal health care practices. Animals that are well cared for have better immunity and will be less susceptible to disease
- Support to farmers to be able to raise animals in coexistence with ecosystems
- Protection of tropical and subtropical forests, and their inhabitants. Increasing human-animal interactions, as a result of deforestation and agriculture encroachment, has increased human-domestic animal-wildlife interactions, and therefore the risk of disease spillover
- Support for data sharing across human, animal and environmental health sector stakeholders at all levels.

Improving care and welfare of livestock can support environmental and climate protection. A reduction in livestock death and disease means fewer animals will need to be reared for the same output and will use fewer natural resources as a result ([GBADS, 2021](#)).